

**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No. UCSD-07052

## REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. The Examiner restricted the claims into the following four groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-13, and 21, drawn to methods of treating blood to increase viscosity;
- Group II: Claims 14-18 and 22-23, drawn to a composition;
- Group III: Claims 19-20, drawn to a method for determining the amount of viscosity increasing material needed for a patient; and
- Group IV: Claims 24-25, drawn to a method of monitoring the clinical condition of a patient.

In the interests of furthering their business interests, Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-13, and 21), without traverse.

Claims 14-20 and 22-25 have been cancelled in view of non-election of these claims. Applicant's non-election of Group II-IV Claims 14-20 and 22-25 does not narrow the scope of any of the claims because non-election of those claims is not related to a "statutory requirements for a patent" but rather is related to the Patent Office's convenience for organizing searches. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled (or similar) claims in another application(s).

New Claims 26-49 have been added to better describe specific embodiments of the invention. Support for the newly added claims is found, for example, in the originally-filed Claims 14-18 and 22.

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect.

Signed on behalf of:

Dated: December 2, 2002

  
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**APPENDIX I**  
**MARKED-UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS**

Brackets denote deleted text, and underlining denotes inserted text.

**Cancel Claims 14-20 and 22-25.**

**Add the following new Claims 26-49:**

26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein said viscosity increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.

30. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein said viscosity-increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said viscosity-increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein said viscosity-increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.

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34. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

36. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein said viscosity increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

37. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.

38. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein said viscosity increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

41. (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.

42. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

43. (New) The method of Claim 42, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

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44. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein said viscosity increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.

46. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of at least 4.0 centipoise.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein said viscosity increasing agent has a viscosity of between 4 and 20 centipoise.

48. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein said viscosity increasing agent comprises a PEG-dextran conjugate.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the PEG of said PEG-dextran conjugate has an average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 40,000 daltons.